

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

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R 311820Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4472

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA OVIP CVIS MO

SUBJECT: TIME MIDDLE EAST "NEWSTOUR" FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

1. SUMMARY: DURING TWENTY-ONE HOUR AFTERNOON AND OVER-NIGHT STOP IN RABAT, TIME NEWSTOUR GROUP ATTENDED EMBASSY BRIEFING, SPENT TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS ISOLATED IN AMBASSADOR'S GARDEN DEBRIEFING ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST TOUR AMONG SELVES RPT SELVES, WERE RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER AND SEVERAL ECONOMIC MINISTERS, HOSTED AT IMPRESSIVELY MOUNTED COCKTAIL PARTY BY PRINCE MOULAY ABDULLAH, PRINCE HERITIER, AND MOULAY ABDULLAH'S SMALL CHILDREN, AND WENT ON TO CEREMONIAL DINNER HOSTED BY FINANCE MINISTER. ALL TOP ECONOMIC MINISTERS PRESENT AS WELL AS DISPLAY OF MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS MAGNATES OF NUMBER EQUAL TO AMERICAN PARTY. GROUP DEPARTED FRIDAY MORNING AT 10 A.M. IMPRESSED, HAPPY AND READY TO GO BACK TO 12-HOUR EXECUTIVE DAY. END SUMMARY.

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2. TIME MIDDLE EAST NEWSTOUR OF BUSINESS LEADERS ARRIVED ONE HOUR EARLY, RECEIVED IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIAL WELCOME AT AIRPORT AND WENT DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR BRIEFING. AMBASSADOR GAVE RUNDOWN ON MOROCCAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUTUATION AND OVERVIEW OF MOROCCAN POSITION IN MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION AS SEEN FROM SEAT OF RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE. LIVELY DISCUSSION ENSUED, CLEARLY SHOWING HOW MUCH GROUP HAD LEARNED DURING TRIP.

3. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S BRIEFING, HE RETURNED TO OFFICE LEAVING GROUP TO HOLD TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR SELF-DEBRIEFING IN GARDEN UNDER SUNNY RABAT SKIES. WE OF COURSE HAVE NO DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING BRIEFING BUT HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE GROUP AT THIS POINT ALREADY IMPRESSED AND PLEASED BY RECEPTION AND BRIEFING.

4. GROUP WENT DIRECTLY WITH SECURITY ESCORT TO RENDEVOUS WITH PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLAN AND OTHER LEADING DIGNITARIES. PRIME MINISTER OSMAN, SPEAKING ENGLISH, GAVE GROUP 45-MINUTE RUNDOWN ON MOROCCAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS AND OBJECTIVES AND MINISTERIAL GROUP THEN ENTERTAINED QUESTIONS.

5. GROUP THEN WENT DIRECTLY TO ROYAL PRECINCT FOR COCKTAILS WITH PRINCE MOULAY ABDULLAH, CROWN PRINCE SIDI MOHAMMED, AND GENERAL MOULAY HAFID. THIS PROVIDED SPLENDID LOCATION FOR SOUVENIR PHOTOGRAPHS AND BRIEF PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACTS WITH LEADING MOROCCAN PERSONALITIES.

6. AFTER 45-MINUTE VISIT TO HOTEL (FIRST CHANCE TO CLEAN UP AND RELAX SINCE DEPARTING ALGIERS), GROUP WENT DIRECTLY TO DINNER HOSTED BY FINANCE MINISTER BENSLIMANE. MATCHING 80 BUSINESSMEN AND TIME EXECUTIVES AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRESENT, EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF MINISTERS, BANKERS, AND TOP-DRAWER MOROCCAN BUSINESSMEN WERE SEATED FOR IMPRESSIVE DINNER A LA MAROCAINE. TRADITIONAL MOROCCAN ORCHESTRA, SINGERS, DANCERS AND OTHER ENTERTAINERS GAVE STRONG UP-BEAT END TO EXHAUSTING RABAT STOP. MANY OF PARTY SAID THAT WATCHING TARBOUSHED-TIME CHAIRMAN HEISKELL DANCING TO WILD FOLK MUSIC WAS WORTH THE TRIP IN ITSELF.

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7. GROUP LEFT LOADED WITH SOUVENIR PURCHASES AT 10 A.M. FRIDAY MORNING, PLEASED WITH OVERALL RESULTS OF TRIP AND WE HOPE AND BELIEVE WITH RABAT STOPOVER. TIME LEADERS SEEMED TO FEEL THIS STOP PROVIDED THE UP-BEAT CONCLUSION TO TRIP THEY HAD HOPED FOR.

8. UNDERSTAND REPRESENTATIVES OF GROUP HOPE TO DEBRIEF

PRESIDENT FORD FOLLOWING RETURN TO U.S. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING HOW TIME TREATS THE WHOLE EVENT NEXT WEEK.

9. ROCKEFELLER GROUP ARRIVED FIVE MINUTES AFTER TIME TAKE
OFF. PRESENTLY THREE-FOURTHS THROUGH PLANNED DAY. ALL CALLS
AND PROTOCOL ARRANGEMENTS SEEM TO HAVE GONE WELL AT THE MOMENT.
THIS BEING MORE SUBSTANTIVE TRIP, PLAN DETAILED REPORT ON SOME
OF EXCHANGES WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

10. NEWS COVERAGE EXCEPTIONAL IN ALL PAPERS. FIFTEEN MINUTE
TELEVISION COVERAGE PREEMPTED MOST OF EVENING PRIME TIME
NEWSCAST. GOM CLEARLY WENT "ALL OUT". ROYAL AUDIENCE
PRECLUDED ONLY BY KING'S CONVALESCENCE.
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